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Title: Sharon Seeder Interview  
Narrator: Sharon Seeder  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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<Begin Segment 5>

- AT: 00:18:05 And then, um, as far as like your family's war time experiences, was that something that your parents were open about with you or how did you learn about, their experiences?
- SS: 00:18:20 No, I, I learned, on some in bits and pieces when things would come up. But my dad, my second dad who I, you know, basically who raised me, wouldn't let my mother speak about the war. I mean, he basically flat out told her to shut up. I, there are a couple reasons. This, my dad's family in Hawai'i, they were wealthy. So when my dad married my mom, they considered low marrying below his class, even though my dad was like the black sheep of the family. Um, my other two uncles are doctors and my dad, you know, never got a college degree. So he felt embarrassed by some of the those war stories also. And he just would not let her talk about it. So we could only get bits and pieces from like my, my one aunt, my Auntie Masa, not even my grandmother talked about it that much. Um, it's kinda like, you know, they just sort of put it behind them. But my Auntie Masa had a scrapbook and she used to keep like ration cards and things like that and apparently it was lost. Uh, after she passed away, one of her caregivers got rid of it, unfortunately. So a lot of things like that. But I remember going to her house and kind of sneaking and looking around it at some of the stuff. They talk about rationing, you know, rationing sugar and um, flour and items like that. And I think that impacted us because one, my grandmother, my, my grandmother got hit by the Depression and second, the war. So it kind of fostered this hoarding mentality, you know, getting a little packs sugar or jam or whatever and stuffing pockets with at restaurants and making. Actually I'm laughing cause my, my daughter Kelly was trying to learn how to make sweet and sour sauce and my mom and you know, as you're writing different things down and when it came to like part of the recipe my grand, my mom was saying, well you need so many packs of apricot jelly, because she was

KS: 00:20:48 It was two servings of apricot jelly. And I said, what's a serving? And it was the packets and I said, "That's not a serving that's you stealing."

SS: 00:20:57 So I just remember, uh, you know a lot of that, oh we need to, we need to save this, we need to collect this, we need to to, I remember being at a restaurant and my mom would, we were in the lobby of the restaurant and my mom just stuffing fruit like apples and oranges in everybody's pocket to take home.

KS: 00:21:23 The public baths, that always horrified me.

SS: 00:21:25 Oh yeah. That's the, so apparently in camp also, they, they have public facilities and they were rationing water for bathtubs. So you would take a bath and then your sister would take a bath or your family member. So you take a bath in the same water. And when we were growing up and we did the same thing, it was, we didn't know as kids, but when you talk about now it's, it's kind of disgusting. This thing sat we, we did because you know, a lot of soap and grind would be we were kids, we played in the dirt. We really didn't have grass when we were growing up. So we played in the dirt a lot and then you kind of like just skim all the dirt off the top and the next person would take her bath. And that's how she grew up in the, you know, that's what happened with camps. So she didn't talk about a lot, but there were, there were behaviors that lead you to um, excuse me. That led you to under, understand some of what happened. And the hoarding too, the hoarding and looking for bargains. I mean, we used to, I was in my mom's basement a few years ago because there was tinsel that she used to save off of Christmas trees. So after we took down our tree, I was saving all the tinsel and she said, put it in the basement against this wall. Well, there was, I don't know, maybe about three, four dozen packets, of unopen tinsel, but still she wanted it. So she collected it because she was afraid she wouldn't have it. And then she also wanted to save the tinsel. So some of that I, I'm pretty sure it happened because of the war. Um

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